



CLEARING PERMIT

Granted under section 51E of the Environmental Protection Act 1986

Purpose Permit number:	CPS 10108/1
Permit Holder:	Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (t/a Synergy)
Duration of Permit:	From 22 July 2023 to 22 July 2028

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* subject to the following conditions of this permit.

PART I – CLEARING AUTHORISED

1. Clearing authorised (purpose)

The permit holder is authorised to clear *native vegetation* for the purpose of the construction of a wind farm.

2. Land on which clearing is to be done

Lot 2640 on Deposited Plan 210252, Hyden

Lot 2485 on Deposited Plan 209641, Hyden

Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11651495), Hyden

Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11650140), Hyden

King Rocks Road North Road reserve (PIN 11650688), Hyden

3. Clearing authorised

The permit holder must not clear more than 4 hectares of *native vegetation* within a 3039.4 hectare footprint within the area cross-hatched yellow in Figure 1 of Schedule 1.

4. Clearing not authorised

The permit holder must not clear within the area cross-hatched red in Figure 2 of Schedule 1.

5. Period during which clearing is authorised

The permit holder must not clear any *native vegetation* after 10 July 2028.

PART II – MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS

6. Avoid, minimise, and reduce impacts and extent of clearing

In determining the *native vegetation* authorised to be cleared under this permit, the permit holder must apply the following principles, set out in descending order of preference:

- (a) avoid the clearing of *native vegetation*;
- (b) minimise the amount of *native vegetation* to be cleared; and
- (c) reduce the impact of clearing on any environmental value.

7. Weed management

When undertaking any clearing authorised under this permit, the permit holder must take the following measures to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of *weeds*:

- (a) clean earth-moving machinery of soil and vegetation prior to entering and leaving the area to be cleared;
- (b) ensure that no known *weed*-affected soil, *mulch*, *fill*, or other material is brought into the area to be cleared; and
- (c) restrict the movement of machines and other vehicles to the limits of the areas to be cleared.

8. Directional clearing

The permit holder must conduct clearing activities in a slow, progressive manner towards adjacent *native vegetation* to allow fauna to move into adjacent *native vegetation* ahead of the clearing activity.

9. Wind erosion management

The permit holder must commence the construction of access roads and construction of a wind farm no later than three (3) months after undertaking the authorised clearing activities to reduce the potential for wind erosion.

PART III - RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING

10. Records that must be kept

The permit holder must maintain records relating to the listed relevant matters in accordance with the specifications detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Records that must be kept

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
1.	In relation to the authorised clearing activities generally	<ol style="list-style-type: none">(a) the species composition, structure, and density of the cleared area;(b) the location where the clearing occurred, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit set to GDA2020, expressing the geographical coordinates

No.	Relevant matter	Specifications
		<p>in Eastings and Northings;</p> <p>(c) the date that the area was cleared;</p> <p>(d) the direction of clearing;</p> <p>(e) the date that construction commenced;</p> <p>(f) the size of the area cleared (in hectares);</p> <p>(g) actions taken to avoid, minimise, and reduce the impacts and extent of clearing in accordance with condition 6; and</p> <p>(h) actions taken to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of <i>weeds</i> in accordance with condition 7.</p>

11. Reporting

The permit holder must provide to the *CEO* the records required under condition 10 of this permit when requested by the *CEO*.

DEFINITIONS

In this permit, the terms in Table have the meanings defined.

Table 2: Definitions

Term	Definition
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of the department responsible for the administration of the clearing provisions under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .
clearing	has the meaning given under section 3(1) of the EP Act.
condition	a condition to which this clearing permit is subject under section 51H of the EP Act.
fill	means material used to increase the ground level, or to fill a depression.
department	means the department established under section 35 of the <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> (WA) and designated as responsible for the administration of the EP Act, which includes Part V Division 3.
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
mulch	means the use of organic matter, wood chips or rocks to slow the movement of water across the soil surface and to reduce evaporation.
native vegetation	has the meaning given under section 3(1) and section 51A of the EP Act.
weeds	<p>means any plant –</p> <p>(a) that is a declared pest under section 22 of the <i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>; or</p> <p>(b) published in a Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions species-led ecological impact and invasiveness ranking summary, regardless of ranking; or</p> <p>(c) not indigenous to the area concerned.</p>

END OF CONDITIONS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mathew Gannaway', written over a horizontal line.

Mathew Gannaway
A/SENIOR MANAGER
NATIVE VEGETATION REGULATION

*Officer delegated under Section 20
of the Environmental Protection Act 1986*

28 June 2023

Schedule 1

The boundary of the area authorised to be cleared is shown in the map below (Figure 1).

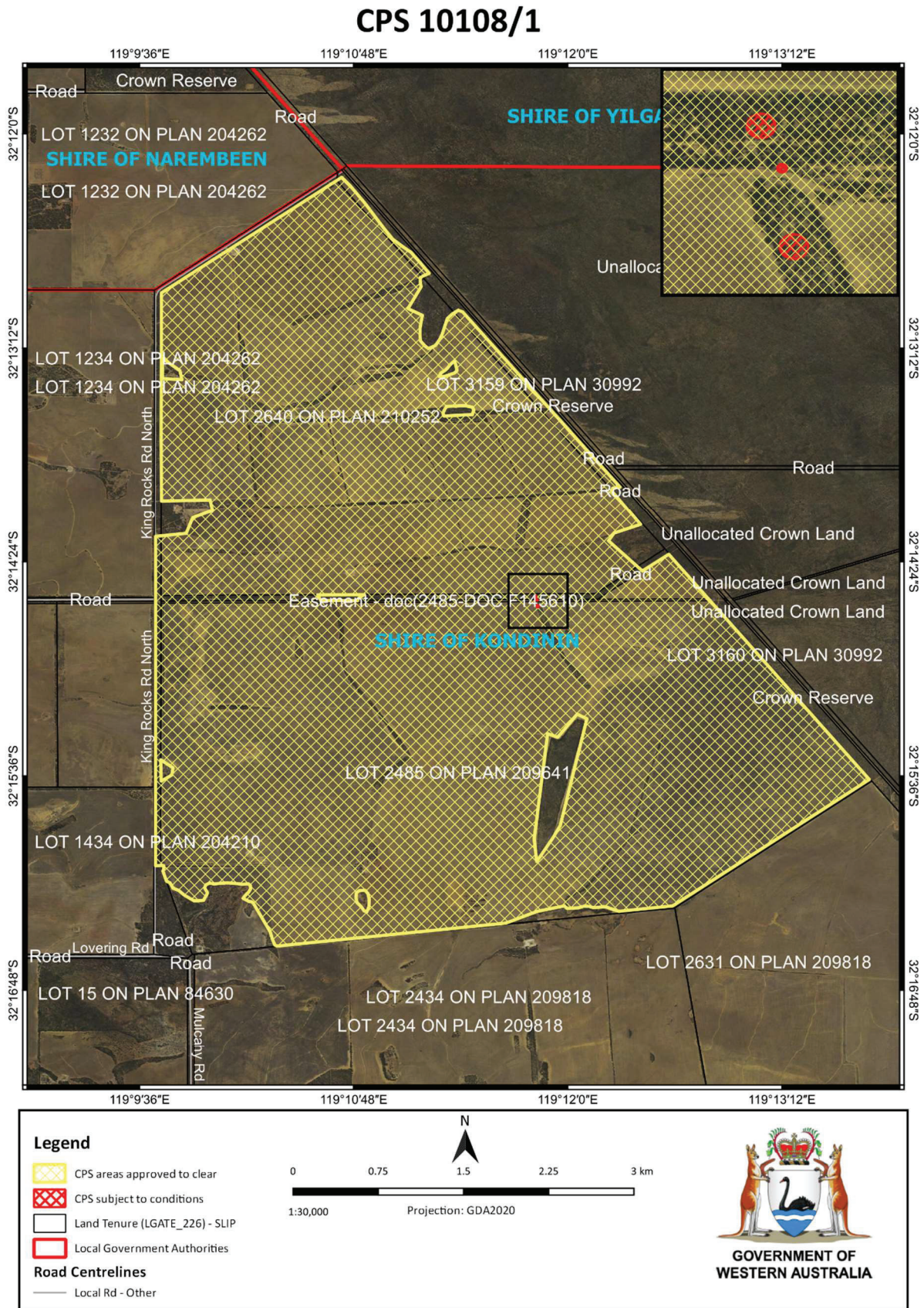


Figure 1: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may occur.

CPS 10108/1

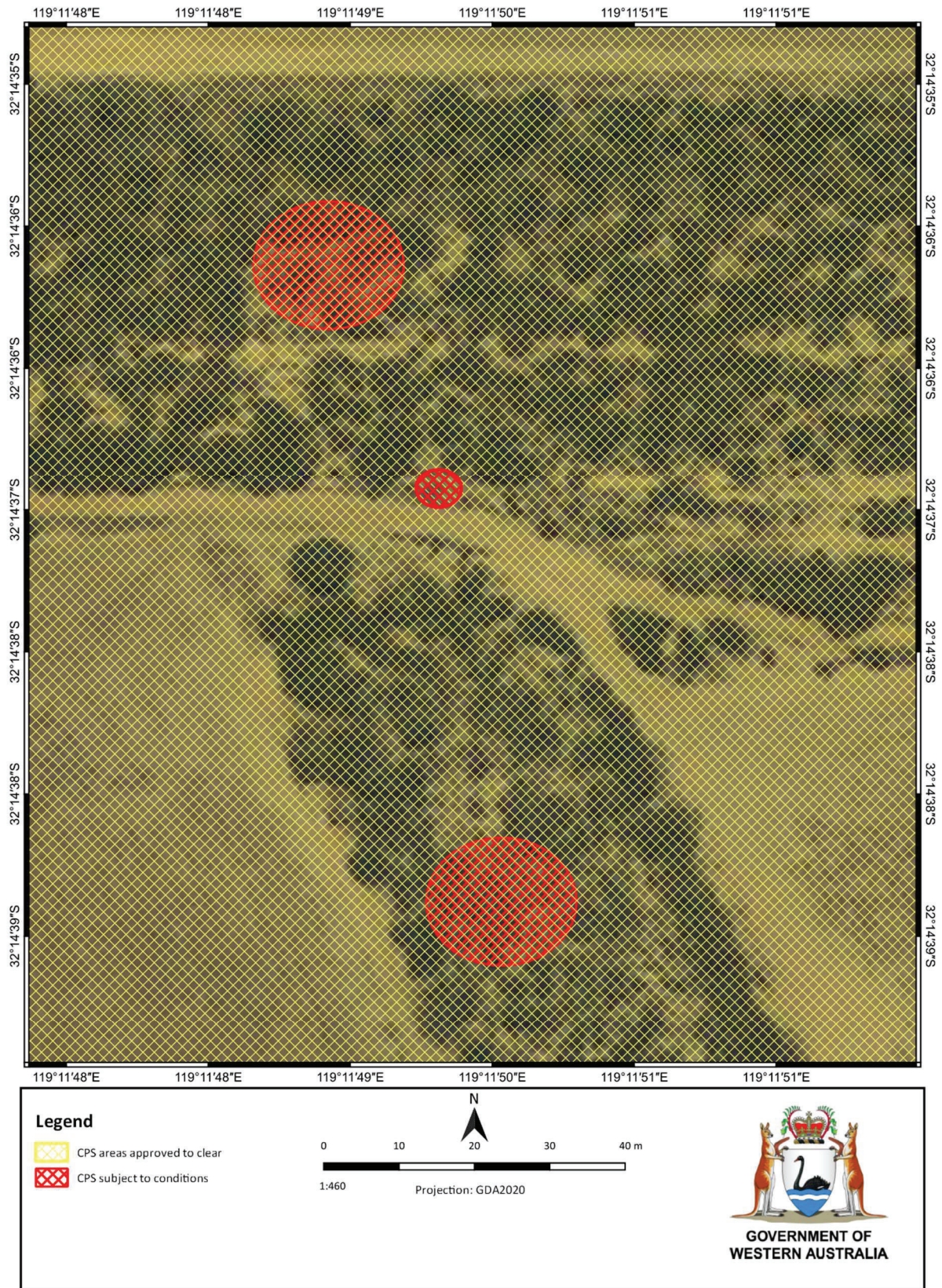


Figure 2: Map of the boundary of the area within which clearing may not occur.



Clearing Permit Decision Report

1 Application details and outcome

1.1. Permit application details

Permit number:	CPS 10108/1
Permit type:	Purpose permit
Applicant name:	Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (t/a Synergy)
Application received:	7 March 2023
Application area:	4.00 hectares of native vegetation within a 3039.4 hectare footprint
Purpose of clearing:	Construction of a wind farm
Method of clearing:	Mechanical
Property:	Lot 2640 on Deposited Plan 210252 Lot 2485 on Deposited Plan 209641 Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11651495) Unnamed road reserve (PIN 11650140) King Rocks Road North Road reserve (PIN 11650688)
Location (LGA area/s):	Hyden
Localities (suburb/s):	Shire of Kondinin

1.2. Description of clearing activities

Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (t/a Synergy) is proposing to undertake the clearing of native vegetation within the Shire of Kondinin. The proposed clearing is 4.00 hectares, distributed across a footprint of 3039.40 hectares (see Figure 1, Section 1.5). The proposed clearing will help facilitate the construction of a wind farm.

1.3. Decision on application

Decision:	Granted
Decision date:	28 June 2023
Decision area:	4.00 hectares of native vegetation within a 3039.4 hectares footprint

1.4. Reasons for decision

This clearing permit application was submitted, accepted, assessed and determined in accordance with sections 51E and 51O of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act). The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) advertised the application for 21 days and one submission was received. The consideration of the matters raised in the submission is provided in Appendix B.

In making this decision, the Delegated Officer had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B), relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), the findings of a flora, vegetation and fauna assessment (see Appendix E), the clearing principles set out in Schedule 5 of the EP Act (see Appendix C), relevant planning instruments and any other matters considered relevant to the assessment (see Section 3). The Delegated Officer also took into consideration that the

objective of the proposal is to support an increase in the supply of renewable energy in Western Australia and is aligned with the State's objective to develop a cleaner, more diverse, and affordable electricity network.

The assessment identified that the proposed clearing has the potential to:

- introduce and spread of weeds into adjacent vegetation, which could impact on the quality of the adjacent vegetation and its habitat values
- impact historic records of *Balaustion grandibracteatum* subsp. *juncturum*, a Priority 2 (P2) flora as listed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
- impact to fauna that may be present at the time of clearing
- impact to an ecological linkage and
- land degradation in the form of wind erosion.

After consideration of the available information, as well as the applicant's minimisation and mitigation measures (see Section 3.1), the Delegated Officer determined the proposed clearing is unlikely to lead to appreciable land degradation, impact significant habitat to fauna, remove the functionality of the vegetation to form an ecological linkage or remove historic records of *Balaustion grandibracteatum* subsp. *juncturum*.

The Delegated Officer decided to grant a clearing permit subject to conditions to:

- avoid, minimise to reduce the impacts and extent of clearing
- take hygiene steps to minimise the risk of the introduction and spread of weeds
- undertake slow, progressive one, directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.
- the permit holder must commence the construction of access roads and construction of a wind farm no later than three (3) months after undertaking the authorised clearing activities to reduce the potential for wind erosion.
- avoid clearing historic records of *Balaustion grandibracteatum* subsp. *juncturum* Rye (P2) and associated buffers.

1.5. Site maps

CPS 10108/1

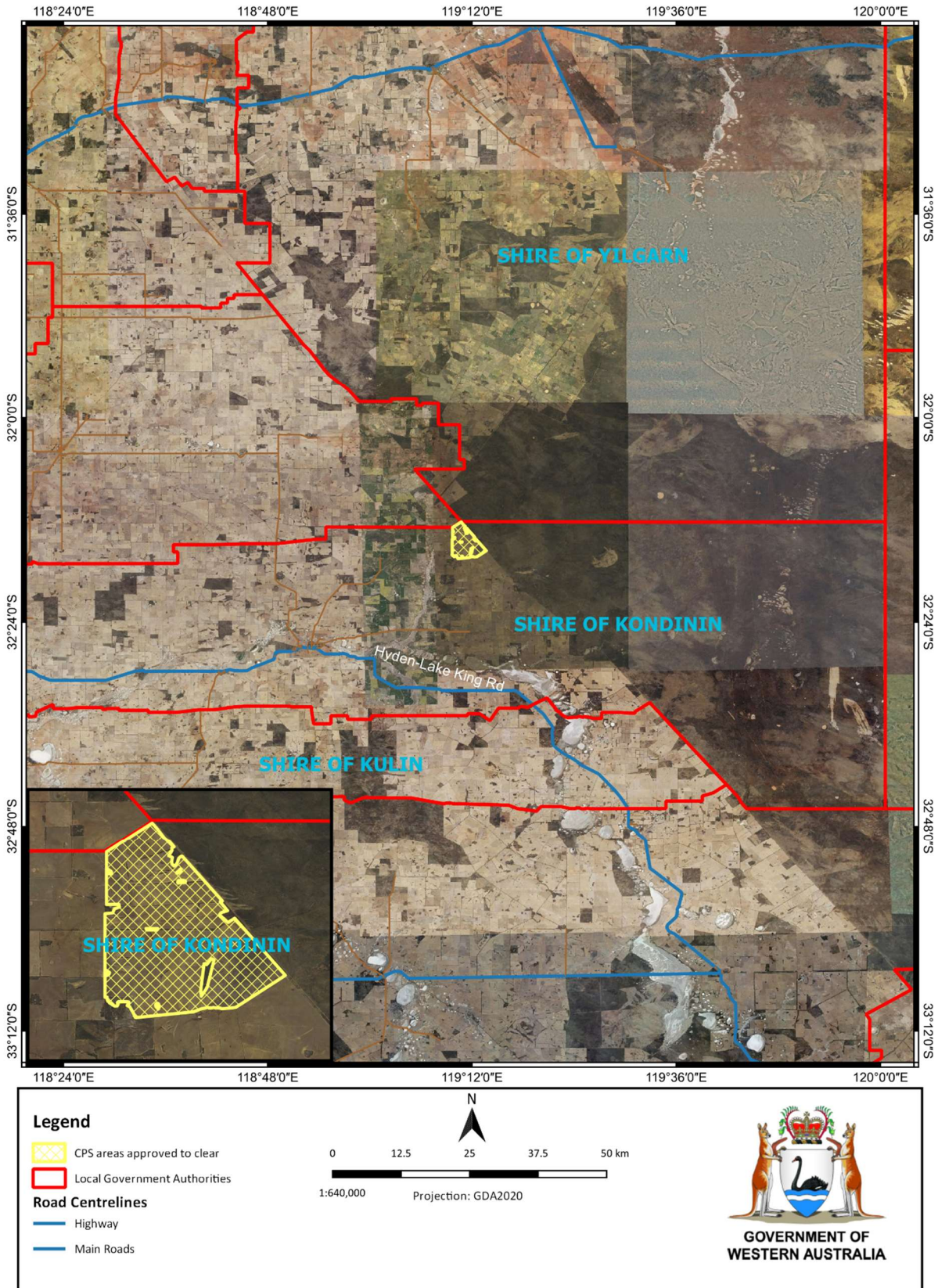


Figure 1: Context map of the application area. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit.

CPS 10108/1

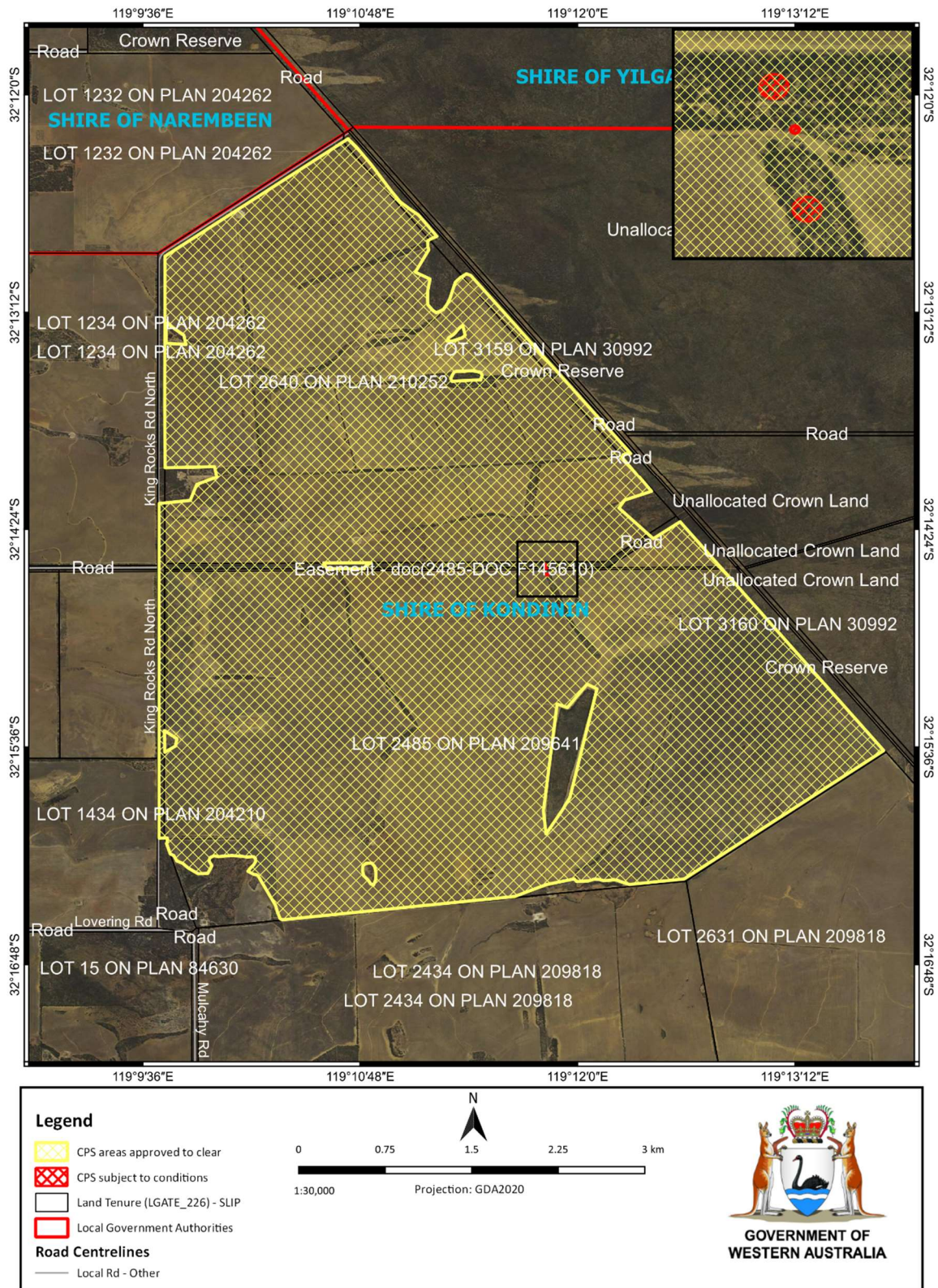


Figure 2: Map of the application area. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit. The areas cross-hatched red indicates areas within which clearing activities must not be undertaken.

CPS 10108/1

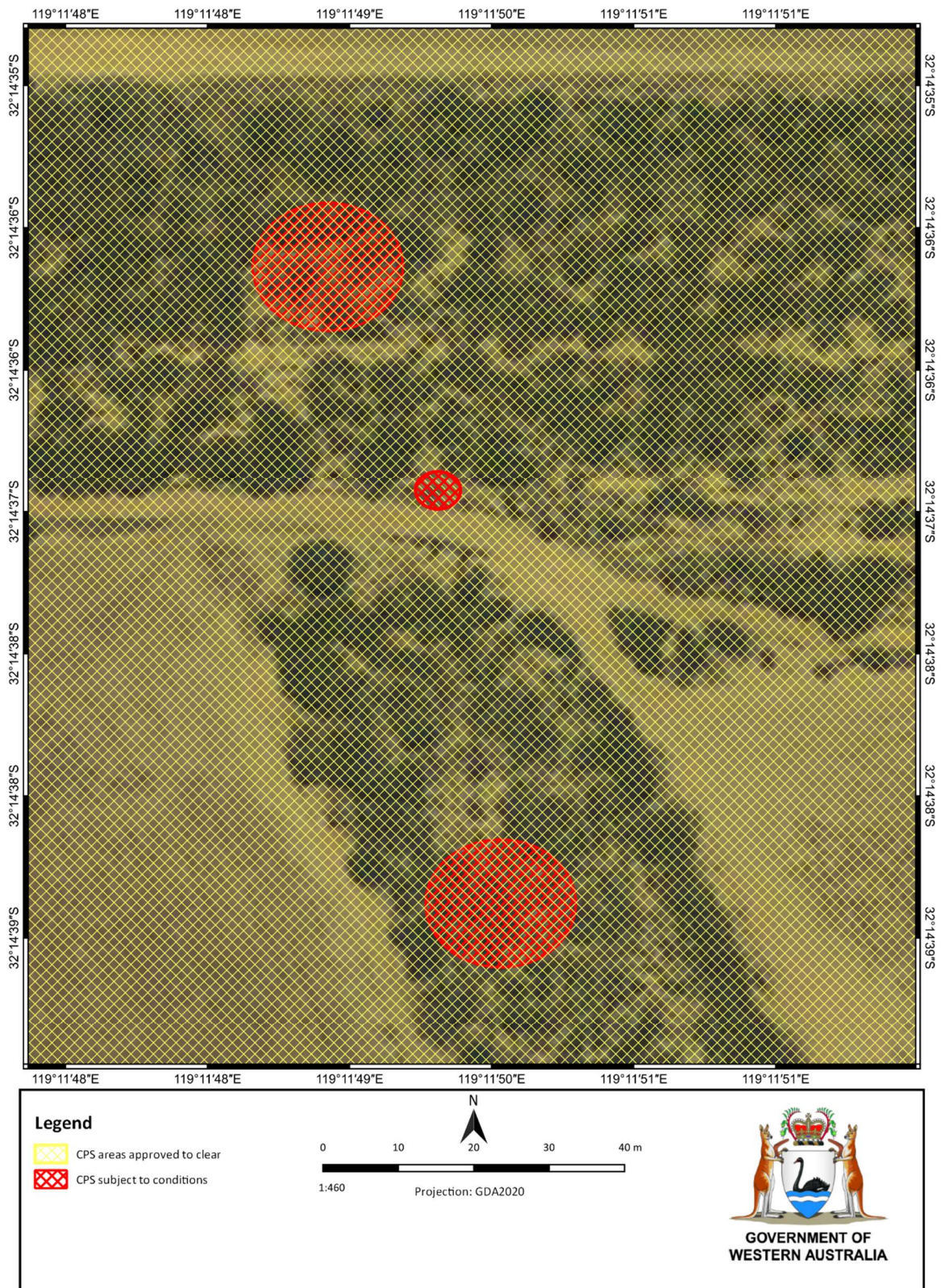


Figure 3: Map of the application area. The area crosshatched yellow indicates the area authorised to be cleared under the granted clearing permit. The areas cross-hatched red indicates areas within which clearing activities must not be undertaken.

2 Legislative context

The clearing of native vegetation in Western Australia is regulated under the EP Act and the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004* (Clearing Regulations).

In addition to the matters considered in accordance with section 51O of the EP Act (see Section 1.4), the Delegated Officer has also had regard to the objects and principles under section 4A of the EP Act, particularly:

- the precautionary principle
- the principle of intergenerational equity
- the principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

Other legislation of relevance for this assessment include:

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (WA) (BC Act)
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (WA) (CALM Act)
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act)
- *Planning and Development Act 2005* (WA) (P&D Act)
- *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* (WA)

The key guidance documents which inform this assessment are:

- *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation* (DER, December 2013)
- *Procedure: Native vegetation clearing permits* (DWER, October 2019)
- Technical guidance – *Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)
- Technical guidance – *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment* (EPA, 2016)

3 Detailed assessment of application

3.1. Avoidance and mitigation measures

The following actions were submitted by the applicant to avoid and minimise potential impacts from the proposed clearing (Synergy, 2023b):

- three locations of lower conservation value connecting the north and south of the lot together have been identified and have become the subject area of where the clearing can occur.
- the construction of all turbines will be in locations of already cleared areas.
- all laydown areas used during the construction of the turbines will be located in already cleared areas.
- all areas of potential conservation significance have been avoided, these include potential future black cockatoo habitat trees, areas mapped in Very Good (Keighery, 1994) condition vegetation and any trees that contain potential red tailed phascogale hollows
- avoiding any clearing within a 10 and three metre buffer around potential *Balaustion grandibracteatum* subsp. *Juncturum* Rye (P2) records.

The Delegated Officer was satisfied that the applicant has made a reasonable effort to avoid and minimise potential impacts of the proposed clearing on environmental values.

3.2. Assessment of impacts on environmental values

In assessing the application, the Delegated Officer has had regard for the site characteristics (see Appendix B) and the extent to which the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological, conservation, or land and water resource values.

The assessment against the clearing principles identified that the impacts of the proposed clearing present a risk to biological values (fauna) and land and water resources. The consideration of these impacts, and the extent to which they can be managed through conditions applied in line with sections 51H and 51I of the EP Act, is set out below.

3.2.1. Biological values (biodiversity) - Clearing Principles (a)

Assessment:

In 2012, one priority listed flora taxon was found within the application area envelope during a biodiversity assessment conducted by NGH Environmental (2012). Three clusters of either individual plants or small groups of the Priority 1 taxon, *Baeckea* sp. Crossroads (B.L. Rye & M.E. Trudgen 241186) were identified. The identification of this species was confirmed at the W.A. herbarium. to be *Baeckea* sp. Crossroads (B.L. Rye & M.E. Trudgen 241186).

Targeted searches by 360 Environmental (2022) in the area where this taxon was recorded did not find any instances of *Baeckea* sp. Crossroads (B.L. Rye and M.E. Trudgen 241186) (P1). The 2021 survey did however record a morphologically similar species which was confirmed by the Western Australian Herbarium to be *Baeckea grandibracteatum*, and not represent the priority flora subspecies.

A recent molecular phylogenetic analysis conducted by Rye *et al.* (2020) has led to the identification of eight new subtribes within the Myrtaceae tribe Chamelaucieae. As a result, the *Baeckea* sp. Crossroads has been reclassified and renamed as *Balaustion grandibracteatum* subsp. *junctionum*. Furthermore, the priority listing of the species has been changed from Priority 1 to Priority 2.

Electricity Generation and Retail Corporation (t/a Synergy) has proposed that although the species is likely no longer present within the recorded location from NGH Environmental 2012 study, two Ten metre buffers will be placed around the GPS location where individuals were previously found. And a three meter buffer around a third location. A larger buffer is not possible for this individual, since it is adjacent to an existing access track (360 Environmental, 2022).

No other threatened or priority flora were recorded during the flora survey (360 Environmental, 2022).

Conclusion:

NGH Environmental (2012) recorded the priority 2 species *Balaustion grandibracteatum* subsp. *junctionum* within the application area, however targeted searches by 360 Environmental (2022) in the area did not find any occurrence of the species. Three Buffer areas where clearing will not be undertaken have been suggested by Synergy around the GPS locations where individuals were previously found to minimise potential impacts to historical occurrences.

Conditions:

To address the potential impact to historical records of Priority flora, the following management measure will be conditioned on the permit:

- No clearing is to be undertaken within buffer areas of the historical records of *Balaustion grandibracteatum* subsp. *junctionum*.

3.2.2. Biological values (Significant Habitat for Fauna) - Clearing Principle (b)

Assessment

The application area is located within the Mallee region. A reconnaissance and targeted flora and vegetation survey (360 Environmental, 2022) identified the native vegetation within the application area to predominately range from Very good to Good condition (Keighery, 1994). The majority of the 3039.4 hectare clearing footprint was mapped as cleared, devoid of native vegetation (360 Environmental, 2022).

According to available database, 10 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area comprising one Priority 1, Two Priority 3, one Priority 4, two Endangered, two vulnerable, one specially protected species (OS), and one specially protected species (Conservation dependent) fauna taxa.

Noting the habitat requirements, the distribution of the recorded species, the mapped vegetation types, and the condition of the vegetation within the application area, the application area may comprise suitable habitat for the following fauna species:

- *Calyptorhynchus latirostris* (Carnaby's Cockatoo)
- *Dasyurus geoffroyi* (Western quoll)
- *Nyctophilus major tor* (Central long-eared bat)
- *Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys* (Western Rosella)
- *Phascogale calura* (Red-tailed Phascogale)

A basic terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey targeting the conservation significant Carnaby's Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus latirostris*), Malleefowl (*Leipoa ocellata*), Chuditch (*Dasyurus geoffroii fortis*) and Red-tailed Phascogale (*Phascogale calura*) did not identify any evidence that these conservation significant taxa occur within the application area. Four introduced mammals were recorded in the Survey Area, of which the Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) was notably abundant (360 Environmental, 2022). This will have impacted the occurrence of ground dwelling fauna occurring within the application area.

Carnaby's cockatoo (EN)

The application area is mapped within the known distribution zone of the Endangered Carnaby's Cockatoo. Suitable breeding habitat for Carnaby's cockatoo includes trees with either a suitable nest hollow or a suitable DBH to develop a nest hollow (Australian Government, 2022). No suitable breeding or roosting habitat for black cockatoos was identified within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022; Synergy, 2023b). Additionally, within the surrounding area, no recorded black cockatoo roosts or hollows (artificial or natural) are recorded within 25 kilometres of the application area.

Carnaby's cockatoos forage on the seeds, nuts, and flowers of a variety of plants, including Proteaceous species (*Banksia* spp., *Hakea* spp., and *Grevillea* spp.), as well as *Allocasuarina* and *Eucalyptus* species, marri, and a range of introduced species (Valentine and Stock, 2008). The application area occurs on the eastern boundary of the Carnaby's Cockatoo distribution and contains limited suitable habitat for the species. The Mallee woodland mapped within the application area contains some known foraging plants, including *Allocasuarina*, *Banksia*, and *Grevillea* (360 Environmental, 2022). The application area is located adjacent to a large expanse of native vegetation that likely includes larger areas of suitable foraging habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo.

The clearing of native vegetation within the application area is proposed to occur within three main access crossing points (Appendix E, Figure Y). The three potential access crossing points vegetation is described below.

Table 1: Proposed access crossing points vegetation description and vegetation condition rating scale.

Crossing point	Vegetation Unit	Keighery condition
A	Dominated by dense mid height <i>Eucalyptus burracoppinensis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus leptopoda</i> subsp. <i>leptopoda</i> and <i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> subsp. <i>acutivalvis</i> .	Good
B	Vegetation in very good condition, with <i>Eucalyptus rigidula</i> over <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> subsp. <i>fastigiata</i> , <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> .	Good
C	Dominated by <i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i> and <i>Callitris preissii</i> .	Good

Based on the location of the application area, clearing focusing on crossing points, limited foraging species identified within the application area, and size of the proposed clearing area relative to the expanse of native vegetation to the east, the application will not likely comprise significant breeding, roosting or foraging habitat for Carnaby's Cockatoo. Black cockatoos may utilise the application area tangentially as they move through the landscape; however, the proposed cleaning is unlikely to negatively impact movements of Carnaby's Cockatoo as remnant vegetation will remain within the application area.

Western quoll (VU)

The Western Quoll used to live in most of continental Australia, except for the tropical north and temperate east. Currently, they can be found in areas dominated by sclerophyll forest, drier woodland, heath, and mallee shrubland, similar to the application area (Van Dyck and Strahan, 2008; National Environmental Science Program Threatened Species Research Hub, 2019). They are carnivorous and nocturnal, feeding on small mammals, birds, lizards, and frogs. The western quoll requires large areas of uncleared vegetation that provide enough food and refuge resources (National Environmental Science Program Threatened Species Research Hub, 2019). The application area is mostly cleared. The Western Quoll was not recorded within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022). It is possible that the Chuditch may occasionally occur within the application area, potentially as transient individuals, however it is unlikely that the taxon would regularly use and rely on habitats within the application area, particularly given the abundance of feral predators such as the Red Fox and Cat.

Central long-eared bat (P3)

The central long-eared bat (CLEB) is an insectivorous *Nyctophilus* species found in arid and semi-arid regions and occupies a range of dry woodland and shrubland habitats. Roost sites favoured by CLEB are tree hollows and amongst foliage, and beneath the thick loose bark of swamp paperbark (*Melaleuca* sp.) and flooded gum (*Eucalyptus* sp.) in riparian habitat (McKenzie and Parnaby 2008). The CLEB was recorded near the south end of the application area (360 Environmental, 2022). As limited woodland and paddock trees occur within the application area, it is unlikely that the CLEB utilises the application area for roosting. The application area may be used as foraging habitat for CLEB. Based on the location and the limited nature of the clearing, and the large patch of preferable roosting habitat to the east of the application area, it is unlikely that the proposed clearing will impact significant habitat for the CLEB.

Western Rosella (P4)

The Western Rosella is found in the Wheatbelt areas of semiarid open eucalypt and Sheoak woodlands and scrublands, particularly in areas containing *Eucalyptus wandoo*, *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, and *Allocasuarina huegeliana*. They mainly eat seeds (such as sheoak, capeweeds, thistles, and flatweeds), fruits, flowers, insects, and larvae. Rosellas make their nests in tree hollows, with preferred nesting trees including Marri, Wandoo, York Gum, Flooded Gum, and Salmon Gum. They nest from August to November and incubate their eggs for 23-25 days (Johnstone & Storr, 1998). The Western Rosella was not recorded within the application area during the flora, vegetation and fauna assessment but was recorded in the application area during NGH Environmental survey of the application area in 2012 (360 Environmental, 2022). The Western Rosella may be found within the application area as it has been recorded within historical surveys of the application area as well as having suitable habitat for foraging. No suitable breeding habitat was observed within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022). To the east of the application area, there is a large quantity of prime vegetation for the western rosella. Whilst the Western Rosella may intermittently utilise the application area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have a significant impact on the species.

Red-tailed Phascogale (CD)

The Red-tailed Phascogale (RTP) is usually a nocturnal species. However, it is known to diverge from its diurnal pattern and hunt during the day. The main component of the RTP diet is invertebrates with rodents, birds, small reptiles, frogs, fruits and plant material supplementing their diet seasonally (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2012; Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2016). The RTP occurs in remnant Wandoo and Sheoak woodland associations in the southern wheatbelt of Western Australia and shows a preference for long unburnt habitats with a continuous canopy and tree hollows. Furthermore, wandoo trees provide excellent nesting sites in the form of hollow logs and limbs, which they line with grass and feathers. Nesting may also occur in Grass Trees (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.) or dead Sheoaks (Department of Environment and Conservation, 2012; Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2016). During the terrestrial vertebrate fauna survey, three hollows were observed within the application area suitable for the RTP. However, no evidence of use was recorded in any of the three (360 Environmental, 2022). It is possible that the RTP may occasionally occur within the application area, however it is unlikely that the taxon would regularly use and rely on habitats within the application area as a much more abundant continuous canopy woodland is located east of the application area.

Ecological linkage

It is likely that the application area is contributing to providing dispersal habitat between larger remnants in the local area. However, Synergy does not intend on clearing the entire east to west vegetative corridors, rather they will dissect/crisscross the vegetation where required to transport blades, create access tracks and lay cables (Appendix E, Figure Y). Synergy have taken into consideration the best location to create the corridors to minimise damage to vegetation, favouring clearing in degraded areas. It is anticipated that the vegetative corridors will still be able to function as ecological linkages post works. It is considered unlikely that the proposed clearing will significantly reduce connectivity between remnant vegetation in the landscape or result in significant impacts to fauna dispersal through the local area.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessment, the proposed clearing will not result in significant impacts to fauna that may potentially utilise the application area from time to time. No significant foraging or breeding habitat is expected to be impacted, with the ecological linkage function of the vegetation likely to remain. To minimise potential impacts to individuals that maybe present at the time of clearing, slow directional clearing will be required on the permit.

Conditions

To address the above impacts, the following management measures will be required as conditions on the clearing permit:

- weed and dieback management measures will be required as a condition on the clearing permit to mitigate impacts to adjacent vegetation for fauna species.
- undertake slow, progressive one, directional clearing to allow terrestrial fauna to move into adjacent habitat ahead of the clearing activity.

3.2.3. Land and water resources (Land degradation) - Clearing Principle (g)

Assessment:

Three mapped soil types occur within the application area, with the most dominant being the Woollocutty 2 Subsystem at approximately 99 per cent of the application area. Woollocutty 2 Subsystem is highly susceptible to land degradation from wind erosion and subsurface acidification. The proposed clearing may negatively impact the soil stability, causing wind and soil erosion if left exposed for an extended period of time. Undertaking construction activities within three months of clearing will minimise the risk of wind erosion. As the application area post clearing being the construction of access roads to transport turbine blades for the construction of a wind farm, it is unlikely that subsurface acidification will affect the surrounding environment as the depth of the road construction will be negligible.

Conclusion:

Based on the assessment above, the clearing of native vegetation may cause wind erosion on the soils. Undertaking works within three months of clearing will minimise this risk.

Conditions:

To address the concerns mentioned above, the following management measure will be required as a condition on the clearing permit:

- The permit holder must commence the construction of access roads and construction of a wind farm no later than three (3) months after undertaking the authorised clearing activities to reduce the potential for wind erosion.

3.3. Relevant planning instruments and other matters

The project was referred to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) with a level of assessment set at 'Not Assessed - No Public Advice Given' on 17 August 2022.

Development Approval was obtained from the Shire of Kondinin and the Regional Joint Development Assessment on 15 November 2022.

The water source for the project has not yet been identified and will be determined during detailed design. The construction contractor will obtain a groundwater licence from DWER if required. Synergy advised DWER that if the ground water licence is rejected, it will not stop the project from going ahead as water could be trucked in if necessary.

Synergy has entered into the Noongar Standard Heritage Agreement with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) on behalf of the Ballardong People. While there are no known registered (or lodged) Aboriginal heritage sites within, or in proximity to, the subject site, the intention is to undertake a pre-construction heritage survey with the Traditional Owners to ensure any Aboriginal Heritage Sites can be identified and avoided.

It is the permit holder's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA)* and ensure that no Aboriginal Sites of Significance are damaged through the clearing process.

End

Appendix A. Details of public submissions

Summary of comments	Consideration of comment
<p>Google maps data indicates that the area west of the application side is extensively cleared and therefore should not be cleared.</p> <p>No plan is supplied explaining why the good vegetation corridor links have to go. That is, there is no explanation as to how they cannot avoid disturbing the entire lengths of these areas. As such I cannot make a judgement except that the reasons would have to be quite extraordinary. I also note that the corridors link to a substantial uncleared area to the east, thereby enhancing their value (Submission, 2023).</p>	<p>Although the area surrounding the application area to the north east and west are extensively cleared, there is a large remnant of vegetation to the east of the application area. When taking into consideration the local radius of the application area the vegetation extend remaining is 46.66 per cent. This is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia.</p> <p>Synergy does not intend on clearing the entire east to west vegetative corridors, rather they will dissect/crisscross the vegetation where required to transport blades, create access tracks and lay cables (Appendix E, Figure Y). Synergy have taken into consideration the best location to create the corridors to minimise damage to vegetation, favouring clearing in degraded areas. It is anticipated that the vegetative corridors will still be able to function as ecological linkages post works.</p>

Appendix B. Site characteristics

B.1. Site characteristics

The information provided below describes the key characteristics of the area proposed to be cleared and is based on the best information available to the department at the time of this assessment. This information was used to inform the assessment of the clearing against the Clearing Principles, contained in Appendix C.

Characteristic	Details
Local context	<p>The area proposed to be cleared is 4.00 hectares within a 3039.40-hectare footprint in the Mallee region that borders the extensive land use zone. It is surrounded by a highly cleared landscape of farmlands to the west, with a large remnant of native vegetation 120 metres to the east of the application area that is identified as the Great Western Woodlands. The proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the Great Western Woodlands.</p> <p>Spatial data indicates the local area (10-kilometre radius from the centre of the area proposed to be cleared) retains approximately 46.66 per cent of the original native vegetation cover.</p>
Ecological linkage	<p>The application area is not a part of any larger vegetation or roadside conservation linkages. However, through the centre of the application area, there is a 60-meter-wide by 4.35-kilometre remnant vegetation that would act as a vegetation linkage for fauna species to utilise.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is not likely to sever or impact any formal linkage functions and based on the limited clearing will unlikely impact the 4.53-hectare remnant vegetation linkage function.</p>
Conservation areas	<p>The closest conservation area is a rabbit-proof fence reserve located approximately 0.03 kilometres east of the application area.</p> <p>Two unnamed water supply depots are located approximately 1.08 kilometres north and 3.58 kilometres south of the application area, respectively. Additionally, an unnamed CALM nature reserve is situated approximately 10.58 kilometres west of the application area.</p>

Characteristic	Details																
	The proposed clearing is unlikely to affect the surrounding conservation areas.																
Vegetation description	<p>Photographs supplied by the applicant (Synergy, 2023b) and 360 Environmental (2022) flora, vegetation and fauna Assessment indicate the vegetation within the proposed clearing area consists of predominantly “Plains” described as Tall open woodlands of <i>Eucalyptus burracoppinensis</i>, <i>E. incrassata</i>, and <i>Callitris preissii</i>, over <i>Allocasuarina spinosissima</i>, <i>A. campestris</i>, and scattered <i>Melaleuca spp.</i></p> <p>However, the plains within the application area have distinct sub-communities, with clearing predominantly occurring within the following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Vegetation Unit</th> <th>Vegetation Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Plains 3</td> <td><i>Eucalyptus alipes</i>, <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> and (<i>Eucalyptus burracoppinensis</i>) low open mallee woodland over <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i>, <i>Eremophila papillata</i> (<i>Acacia beauverdiana</i>) and <i>Phebalium filifolium</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Micromyrtus obovata</i>, <i>Acacia intricata</i> and <i>Jacksonia nematoclada</i> low sparse shrubland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plains 6</td> <td><i>Eucalyptus burracoppinensis</i>, <i>Eucalyptus leptopoda</i> subsp. <i>leptopoda</i>, and <i>Callitris preissii</i> (<i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> subsp. <i>acutivalvis</i>) low woodland over <i>Hakea meisneriana</i>, <i>Hakea erecta</i> and <i>Grevillea excelsior</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Austrostipa eremophila</i>, <i>*Vulpia bromoides</i> and <i>*Poa annual</i> low open tussock grassland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plains 7</td> <td><i>Eucalyptus rigidula</i> low open mallee woodland over <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> subsp. <i>fastigiata</i>, <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> and <i>Acacia yorkkrakinensis</i> subsp. <i>acrita</i> (<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>) tall shrubland tall open shrubland over</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plains 8</td> <td><i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i> and <i>Callitris preissii</i> low open woodland over <i>Melaleuca eleuterostachya</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Comesperma spinosum</i> low open shrubland</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This is relatively consistent with the mapped vegetation type(s):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Vegetation complex</th> <th>Vegetation Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Skeleton Rock 519</td> <td><i>Eucalypt</i> shrubland <i>Eucalyptus eremophila</i>, <i>E. redunca</i>, <i>E. spp.</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Skeleton Rock 2048</td> <td>Mixed heath with scattered tall shrubs <i>Acacia spp.</i>, <i>Proteaceae</i> and <i>Myrtaceae</i>.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Representative photos and full survey descriptions and maps are available in Appendix E.</p> <p>The mapped vegetation types retain approximately 69.12 and 54.33 per cent of the original extent (Government of Western Australia, 2019).</p>	Vegetation Unit	Vegetation Description	Plains 3	<i>Eucalyptus alipes</i> , <i>Eucalyptus salubris</i> and (<i>Eucalyptus burracoppinensis</i>) low open mallee woodland over <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> , <i>Eremophila papillata</i> (<i>Acacia beauverdiana</i>) and <i>Phebalium filifolium</i> mid open shrubland over <i>Micromyrtus obovata</i> , <i>Acacia intricata</i> and <i>Jacksonia nematoclada</i> low sparse shrubland	Plains 6	<i>Eucalyptus burracoppinensis</i> , <i>Eucalyptus leptopoda</i> subsp. <i>leptopoda</i> , and <i>Callitris preissii</i> (<i>Allocasuarina acutivalvis</i> subsp. <i>acutivalvis</i>) low woodland over <i>Hakea meisneriana</i> , <i>Hakea erecta</i> and <i>Grevillea excelsior</i> tall open shrubland over <i>Austrostipa eremophila</i> , <i>*Vulpia bromoides</i> and <i>*Poa annual</i> low open tussock grassland	Plains 7	<i>Eucalyptus rigidula</i> low open mallee woodland over <i>Melaleuca pauperiflora</i> subsp. <i>fastigiata</i> , <i>Allocasuarina campestris</i> and <i>Acacia yorkkrakinensis</i> subsp. <i>acrita</i> (<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>) tall shrubland tall open shrubland over	Plains 8	<i>Eucalyptus incrassata</i> and <i>Callitris preissii</i> low open woodland over <i>Melaleuca eleuterostachya</i> mid sparse shrubland over <i>Comesperma spinosum</i> low open shrubland	Vegetation complex	Vegetation Description	Skeleton Rock 519	<i>Eucalypt</i> shrubland <i>Eucalyptus eremophila</i> , <i>E. redunca</i> , <i>E. spp.</i>	Skeleton Rock 2048	Mixed heath with scattered tall shrubs <i>Acacia spp.</i> , <i>Proteaceae</i> and <i>Myrtaceae</i> .
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Waterbodies	<p>There are two mapped granite outcrops that rests upon the application area in the Sothern region of the application area.</p> <p>The desktop assessment and aerial imagery indicated that there are no wetlands or natural watercourses within the application area. Applicant has avoided all wheatbelt wetlands available with the shape of their application area. There is a small unnamed reservoir approximately 42 metres from the application area. A few small unnamed basins are located approximately 1.88 kilometres west of the application area. Additionally, Salt Lockhart A013 A35 is located approximately 2.77 kilometre west of the application area.</p> <p>The proposed clearing is unlikely to negatively affect any surrounding waterbodies.</p>																														
Hydrogeography	<table border="1" data-bbox="432 613 1195 788"> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 613 759 692">Hydrological Zone</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="759 613 1195 692">Northern Zone of Ancient Drainage</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 692 759 741">Basin</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="759 692 1195 741">Avon River (615)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 741 759 788">Hydrographic Catchment</td> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="759 741 1195 788">SwanAvon Lockhart</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="432 822 1385 1236"> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 822 798 887">RIWI Act Surface Water and Irrigation District</td> <td data-bbox="798 822 911 887">No</td> <td data-bbox="911 822 1385 887"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 887 798 936">RIWI Act Rivers</td> <td data-bbox="798 887 911 936">No</td> <td data-bbox="911 887 1385 936"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 936 798 1001">RIWI Act Groundwater Areas</td> <td data-bbox="798 936 911 1001">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="911 936 1385 1001">Kondinin-Ravensthorpe</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 1001 798 1066">CAWS Act Clearing Control Catchment</td> <td data-bbox="798 1001 911 1066">No</td> <td data-bbox="911 1001 1385 1066"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 1066 798 1131">Public Drinking Water Source Areas</td> <td data-bbox="798 1066 911 1131">No</td> <td data-bbox="911 1066 1385 1131"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 1131 798 1180">Wellhead Protection Zone</td> <td data-bbox="798 1131 911 1180">No</td> <td data-bbox="911 1131 1385 1180"></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="432 1180 798 1236">Reservoir Protection Zone</td> <td data-bbox="798 1180 911 1236">No</td> <td data-bbox="911 1180 1385 1236"></td> </tr> </table> <p>Ground water salinity is approximately 14000-35000 parts per thousand.</p>	Hydrological Zone	Northern Zone of Ancient Drainage		Basin	Avon River (615)		Hydrographic Catchment	SwanAvon Lockhart		RIWI Act Surface Water and Irrigation District	No		RIWI Act Rivers	No		RIWI Act Groundwater Areas	Yes	Kondinin-Ravensthorpe	CAWS Act Clearing Control Catchment	No		Public Drinking Water Source Areas	No		Wellhead Protection Zone	No		Reservoir Protection Zone	No	
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Flora	<p>According to available databases, 43 conservation significant flora species have been recovered within the local area (50-kilometre buffer). Comprising four Priority 1, seven Priority 2, 21 Priority 3, seven Priority 4, and four threatened flora taxa. None of these records occurs over the application area. The closest recorded conservation significant flora species are <i>Eucalyptus caesia</i> subsp. <i>caesia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus mimica</i> subsp. <i>mimica</i> both located approximately located 3.50 kilometres from the application area.</p> <p>No conservation significant flora were recorded during the flora and vegetation survey (360 Environmental, 2022).</p>																														
Ecological communities	<p>There are approximately 657 records of the Eucalyptus woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt (Wheatbelt woodlands) threatened ecological community (TEC) within a 25-kilometre radius of the application area. No mapped Wheatbelt Woodland TEC lies within the application area. The closet Wheatbelt Woodland TEC is mapped approximately 1.9 kilometres west of the application area.</p> <p>360 Environmental (2022) identified six small patches within the application area that appeared to be analogous with the Wheatbelt Woodland TEC. Further analysis determined that the patches do not fit the key criterion to be identified as the Wheatbelt Woodland TEC. The proposed clearing is not likely to impact an occurrence of the Wheatbelt Woodland TEC.</p>																														

Characteristic	Details
Fauna	<p>According to available database, 10 conservation significant fauna species have been recorded within the local area comprising one Priority 1, two Priority 3, one Priority 4, two Endangered, two vulnerable, one specially protected species (OS), and one specially protected species (Conservation dependent) fauna taxa.</p> <p>Five of the fauna species are non-avian species. The closest are the <i>Daphnia jollyi</i>, <i>Dasyurus geoffroi</i>, and the <i>Phascogale calura</i> located approximately 4.88, 4.82 and 5.12 kilometres away from the application respectively.</p> <p>Of the avian species, the closest recorded species is the <i>Leipoa ocellata</i> located approximately 4.92 kilometres from the application area.</p> <p>There are no black cockatoo roosts or hollows artificial or natural recorded within 25 kilometres of the application area.</p> <p>Fauna survey of the application area recorded <i>Nyctophilus major tor</i> (Central long-eared bat) and <i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i> (Western Rosella) within the application area (360 Environmental, 2022).</p>

B.2. Vegetation extent

	Pre-European extent (ha)	Current extent (ha)	Extent remaining (%)	Current extent in all DBCA managed land (ha)	Current proportion (%) of pre-European extent in all DBCA managed land
IBRA bioregion*					
Mallee	7,395,894.36	4,180,937.68	56.53	1,289,384.08	18.03
Vegetation complex					
Skeleton Rock 519	247,349.24	134,392.13	54.33	5,026.59	3.74
Skeleton Rock 2048	95,028.33	65,686.40	69.12	1,375.23	2.09
Local area					
10km radius	57,326.47	26,747.46	46.66	-	-

*Government of Western Australia (2019a)

**Government of Western Australia (2019b)

B.3. Flora analysis table

With consideration for the site characteristics set out above, relevant datasets (see Appendix F.1), and biological survey information, impacts to the following conservation significant flora required further consideration.

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Acacia heterochroa subsp. robertii</i>	2	N	Y	Y	22.86	50	Y
<i>Acacia lanuginophylla</i>	T	N	Y	N	24.19	51	Y
<i>Acacia obesa</i>	3	N	Y	Y	13.16	20	Y
<i>Acacia tuberculata</i>	2	N	Y	Y	16.94	3	Y
<i>Aotus lanea</i>	1	N	N	Y	9.80	3	Y
<i>Banksia rufa subsp. chelomacarpa</i>	3	Y	Y	Y	20.63	1	Y
<i>Banksia rufa subsp. flavescens</i>	3	Y	Y	Y	11.84	1	Y
<i>Banksia shanklandiorum</i>	4	N	Y	Y	9.80	>10	Y
<i>Banksia sphaerocarpa var. dolichostyla</i>	T	Y	Y	N	9.27	20	Y
<i>Banksia xylothemelia</i>	3	N	Y	Y	22.24	20	Y
<i>Bossiaea atrata</i>	3	N	Y	N	14.10	5	Y
<i>Brachyloma elusum</i>	2	N	N	Y	13.67	5	Y
<i>Brachyloma nguba</i>	1	N	Y	N	22.62	10	Y
<i>Cryptandra dielsii</i>	3	N	Y	N	24.90	>50	Y
<i>Cryptandra polyclada subsp. polyclada</i>	3	Y	Y	N	19.55	5	Y
<i>Daviesia uncinata</i>	3	N	N	Y	13.94	1	Y
<i>Eremophila biserrata</i>	4	N	N	N	22.07	1	Y
<i>Eremophila racemosa</i>	4	N	N	Y	22.71	10	Y
<i>Eremophila serpens</i>	4	N	N	N	9.95	20	Y
<i>Eucalyptus caesia subsp. caesia</i>	4	N	N	N	3.50	40	Y
<i>Eucalyptus deflexa</i>	4	N	N	N	21.96	1	Y
<i>Eucalyptus histophylla</i>	3	Y	Y	N	16.16	12	Y
<i>Eucalyptus mimica subsp. mimica</i>	3	Y	Y	N	3.50	60	Y
<i>Eucalyptus ornata</i>	3	N	N	N	20.72	15	Y
<i>Grevillea insignis subsp. elliotii</i>	3	N	N	N	16.27	30	Y
<i>Isoetes brevicula</i>	3	N	N	N	22.97	1	Y
<i>Leucopogon sp. Ironcaps (N. Gibson & K. Brown 3070)</i>	3	N	N	N	17.74	5	Y
<i>Myriophyllum petraeum</i>	4	N	N	N	9.90	>5000	Y
<i>Oxymyrrhine plicata</i>	3	N/A	N/A	N	15.69	1	Y
<i>Phebalium drummondii</i>	3	N	N	Y	17.46	1	Y
<i>Prostanthera nanophylla</i>	3	N/A	N/A	Y	10.60	5	Y
<i>Rinzia torquata</i>	3	N/A	N/A	Y	9.80	1	Y
<i>Roycea pycnophylloides</i>	T	N	N	N	19.49	>700	Y
<i>Scaevola tortuosa</i>	1	N	N	N	17.76	1	Y
<i>Stypandra jamesii</i>	2	Y	Y	Y	4.77	>100	Y
<i>Synaphea canaliculata</i>	2	N	N	Y	12.98	20	Y
<i>Thryptomene sp. Hyden (B.J. Lepschi & L.A. Craven 4477)</i>	1	Y	Y	N	21.21	1	Y
<i>Thysanotus cymosus</i>	3	Y	Y	N	21.81	1	Y
<i>Thysanotus sp. Yellowdine (A.S. George 6040)</i>	2	Y	N	N	22.05	1	Y

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
<i>Tribonanthes purpurea</i>	T	N	N	N	21.41	275	Y
<i>Verticordia gracilis</i>	3	N	N	N	15.05	1	Y
<i>Verticordia multiflora subsp. solox</i>	2	N	N	Y	13.94	1	Y
<i>Verticordia stenopetala</i>	3	N	N	Y	9.80	10	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

B.4. Fauna analysis table

Species name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Birds						
<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i> (Carnaby's Cockatoo).	EN	Y	Y	15.32	12	Y
<i>Calyptorhynchus sp.</i> (white-tailed black cockatoo)	EN	Y	Y	7.23	12	Y
<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine Falcon)	OS	N	N	7.23	1	Y
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i> (Malleefowl)	VU	N	Y	4.93	61	Y
<i>Ninox connivens connivens</i> (southwest subpop.) (Barking Owl)	P3	N	N	17.25	2	Y
<i>Platycercus icterotis xanthogenys</i> (Western Rosella)	P4	Y	Y	0.00	1	Y
Mammal						
<i>Dasyurus geoffroyi</i> (Western quoll)	VU	Y	Y	4.82	2	Y
<i>Notamacropus Irma</i> (Western brush wallaby)	P4	Y	N	23.77	1	Y
<i>Phascogale calura</i> (Red-tailed phascogale)	CD	Y	Y	5.12	5	Y
<i>Nyctophilus major tor</i> (Central long-eared bat)	P3	Y	Y	0.00	1	Y
Reptiles						
<i>Paroplocephalus atriceps</i> (Lake cronin snake)	P3	Y	N	24.28	1	Y
Invertebrates						
<i>Daphnia jollyi</i>	P1	N	N	4.88	3	N

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

B.5. Ecological community analysis table

Community name	Conservation status	Suitable habitat features ? [Y/N]	Suitable vegetation type? [Y/N]	Suitable soil type? [Y/N]	Distance of closest record to application area (km)	Number of known records (total)	Are surveys adequate to identify? [Y, N, N/A]
Eucalypt woodlands of the Western Australian Wheatbelt	P3	N	Y	Y	1.95	657	Y

T: threatened, CR: critically endangered, EN: endangered, VU: vulnerable, P: priority

Appendix C. Assessment against the clearing principles

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
Environmental value: biological values		
<p><u>Principle (a):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biodiversity.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain locally / regionally significant flora, fauna, habitats, or assemblages of plants. NGH Environmental (2012) recorded <i>Balaustion grandibracteatum</i> subsp. <i>Juncturum</i> (Priority 2) within the application area, however this was not recorded by 360 Environmental (2022). No Threatened or Priority Ecological Communities were recorded within the application area.</p>	Not likely to be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.1, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (b):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain foraging, roosting, breeding or significant habitat for Black cockatoo species as the applicant has avoided the area of black cockatoo habitat that may become suitable habitat for black cockatoos in the future.</p> <p>360 Environmental (2022) recorded the Central Long-eared Bat (P3) within the application area.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.2, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (c):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, threatened flora.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared is unlikely to contain habitat for Threatened flora. No threatened flora were identified during the flora and vegetation survey (360 Environmental, 2022).</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (d):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a threatened ecological community.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The area proposed to be cleared does not contain species that resemble a TEC. No TECs were identified during the flora and vegetation survey (360 Environmental, 2022).</p>	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: significant remnant vegetation and conservation areas		
<p><u>Principle (e):</u> “Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.”</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u> The extent of native vegetation in the local area is consistent with the national objectives and targets for biodiversity conservation in Australia. The vegetation proposed to be cleared is not likely to impact the functionality of the ecological linkage in the application area.</p>	Not at variance	No

Assessment against the clearing principles	Variance level	Is further consideration required?
<p><u>Principle (h)</u>: <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment</u>: Given the distance to the nearest conservation area, the proposed clearing is not likely to have an impact on the environmental values of adjacent and/or nearby conservation areas.</p>	Not at variance	No
Environmental value: land and water resources		
<p><u>Principle (f)</u>: <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment</u>: Given no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (g)</u>: <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment</u>: The mapped soils are highly susceptible to wind erosion, and subsurface acidification.</p>	May be at variance	Yes <i>Refer to Section 3.2.3, above.</i>
<p><u>Principle (i)</u>: <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment</u>: Given the extent and the purpose of the clearing, and no water courses or wetlands are recorded within the application area, the proposed clearing is unlikely to impact the quality of surface or underground water.</p>	Not at variance	No
<p><u>Principle (j)</u>: <i>“Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.”</i></p> <p><u>Assessment</u>: The mapped soils, average annual rainfall in the application area, and topographic contours in the surrounding area do not indicate the proposed clearing is likely to contribute to increased incidence or intensity of flooding or contribute to waterlogging.</p>	Not at variance	No

Appendix D. Vegetation condition rating scale

Vegetation condition is a rating given to a defined area of vegetation to categorise and rank disturbance related to human activities. The rating refers to the degree of change in the vegetation structure, density and species present in relation to undisturbed vegetation of the same type. The degree of disturbance impacts upon the vegetation's ability to regenerate. Disturbance at a site can be a cumulative effect from a number of interacting disturbance types.

Considering its location, the scale below was used to measure the condition of the vegetation proposed to be cleared. This scale has been extracted from

Keighery, B.J. (1994) *Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community*. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Measuring vegetation condition for the South West and Interzone Botanical Province (Keighery, 1994)

Condition	Description
Pristine	Pristine or nearly so, no obvious signs of disturbance.
Excellent	Vegetation structure intact, with disturbance affecting individual species; weeds are non-aggressive species.
Very good	Vegetation structure altered, with obvious signs of disturbance. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by repeated fires, the presence of some more aggressive weeds, dieback, logging and/or grazing.
Good	Vegetation structure significantly altered by very obvious signs of multiple disturbances. Retains basic vegetation structure or ability to regenerate it. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of some very aggressive weeds at high density, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Degraded	Basic vegetation structure severely impacted by disturbance. Scope for regeneration but not to a state approaching good condition without intensive management. For example, disturbance to vegetation structure caused by very frequent fires, the presence of very aggressive weeds, partial clearing, dieback and/or grazing.
Completely degraded	The structure of the vegetation is no longer intact and the area is completely or almost completely without native species. These areas are often described as 'parkland cleared' with the flora comprising weed or crop species with isolated native trees or shrubs.

Appendix E. Photographs of the vegetation (Synergy, 2023b; 360 Environmental, 2022)



Figure A: *Eucalyptus leptopoda* subsp. *leptopoda*, *Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* and *Callitris preissii* low woodland over *Hakea meisneriana*, *Hakea erecta* and *Grevillea excelsior* tall open shrubland over *Austrostipa eremophila* low open tussock grassland. -32.251, 119.180.



Figure B: *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Allocasuarina spinosissima* and *Melaleuca hamata* tall shrubland over *Aira cupaniana* low open grassland over *Solanum nigrum* and *Ptilotus polystachyus* low sparse forbland. -32.247, 119.179.



Figure C: *Allocasuarina spinosissima*, *Acacia beauverdiana* and *Callitris roei* tall closed shrubland. -32.215, 119.183. condition (good).



Figure D: *Eucalyptus incrassata* and *Callitris preissii* low open forest over *Melaleuca eleuterostachya* mid sparse shrubland over *Comesperma spinosum* low open shrubland. -32.215, 119.183. Condition (good).

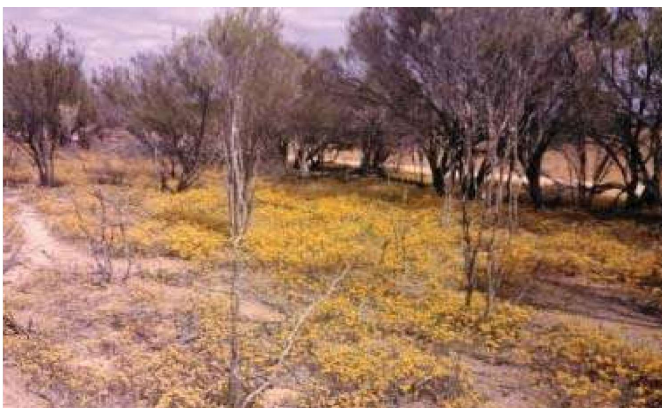


Figure E: *Acacia beauverdiana*, *Melaleuca hamulosa* and *Allocasuarina spinosissima* tall open shrubland over *Vulpia bromoides* and *Austrostipa* sp. low open tussock grassland. -32.216, 119.177. condition (good).



Figure F: *Eucalyptus incrassata* low open mallee forest over *Melaleuca eleuterostachya* mid sparse shrubland over *Aira cupaniana* low sparse grassland. -32.221, 119.170. condition (good).



Figure G: *Melaleuca hamata* and *Acacia beauverdiana* tall open shrubland over *Leptospermum erubescens* and *Lysinema pentapetalum* low open shrubland over *Lepidosperma diurnum* low sedgeland. -32.234, 119.169. condition (Good).



Figure H: *Melaleuca calyptroides* and *Melaleuca hamata* tall open shrubland over *Thryptomene kochii*, *Allocasuarina campestris* and *Hakea multilineata* mid shrubland over *Waitzia acuminata* low sparse forbland. -32.271, 119.181. condition (Good).



Figure I: *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Acacia beauverdiana* and *Banksia laevigata* subsp. *fuscolutea* mid shrubland over *Melaleuca condylosa*, *Melaleuca hamata* and *Baeckea muricata* low open shrubland over *Austrostipa eremophila* low sparse tussock grassland. -32.244, 119.187. condition (Good).



Figure J: *Eucalyptus alipes* low open mallee woodland over *Melaleuca calyptroides* and *Allocasuarina campestris* tall shrubland. -32.223, 119.182. condition (Good).



Figure K: *Acacia beauverdiana*, *Allocasuarina spinosissima* and *Santalum spicatum* tall open shrubland over *Melaleuca condylosa*, *Hakea newbeyana* and *Thryptomene kochii* mid shrubland over *Lepidosperma diurnum* mid sparse sedgeland. -32.244, 119.162. condition (Good).



Figure L: *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis*, *Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* and *Callitris preissii* low woodland over *Hakea multilineata* tall open shrubland over *Vulpia bromoides* and *Poa annua* low tussock grassland. -32.222, 119.189. condition (Good).



Figure M: *Melaleuca pauperiflora* subsp. *fastigiata*, *Acacia yorkkrakinensis* subsp. *acrita* and *Santalum acuminatum* tall shrubland over *Acacia beauverdiana* mid sparse shrubland over **Vulpia bromoides* and **Aira cupaniana* low closed grassland. -32.212, 199.175. condition (Good).



Figure N: *Callitris preissii* and *Eucalyptus alipes* mid woodland over *Hakea multilineata*, *Grevillea excelsior* and *Santalum acuminatum* tall shrubland over *Melaleuca scalena* mid sparse shrubland. -32.222, 119.185 condition (Good).



Figure O: *Eucalyptus rigidula* low isolated clumps of mallee trees over *Santalum acuminatum* tall sparse shrubland over *Melaleuca hamata* mid sparse shrubland. 32.227, 119.172. condition (Good).



Figure P: *Allocasuarina* sp., *Acacia resinosa* and *Persoonia coriacea* mid open shrubland. -32.233, 119.171. condition (Good).



Figure Q: *Eucalyptus rigidula* low open mallee forest over *Melaleuca pauperiflora* subsp. *fastigiata* and *Allocasuarina campestris* tall open shrubland. -32.221, 119.182. condition (Good).



Figure R: *Allocasuarina acutivalvis* subsp. *acutivalvis*, *Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* and *Eucalyptus alipes* low open woodland over *Acacia beauverdiana*, *Hakea multilineata* and *Hakea erecta* tall sparse shrubland. -32.226, 119.190. condition (Good).



Figure S: *Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* and *Eucalyptus salubris* low woodland over *Allocasuarina campestris* and *Acacia beauverdiana* tall open shrubland over **Vulpia bromoides*, **Aira cupaniana* and **Lolium rigidum* low open grassland. -32.227, 119.182. condition (Good).



Figure T: *Allocasuarina corniculata* and *Acacia beauverdiana* tall open shrubland over **Vulpia bromoides* and *Austrostipa* sp. low tussock grassland over *Waitzia acuminata* and *Ptilotus* sp. low closed forbland. -32.241, 119.206. condition (Good).



Figure U: *Allocasuarina campestris* and *Santalum acuminatum* tall open shrubland over *Banksia laevigata* subsp. *fuscolutea*, *Grevillea excelsior* and *Phebalium filifolium* mid sparse shrubland over *Lepidosperma diurnum* mid sparse sedgeland. -32.243, 119.198. condition (Good).



Figure V: *Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* low open mallee woodland over *Allocasuarina campestris* tall sparse shrubland over *Comesperma spinosum* and *Melaleuca cordata* low open shrubland. - 32.261, 119.182. condition (Good).



Figure W: Right hand crossing point: *Eucalyptus burracoppinensis* low open mallee woodland over *Allocasuarina campestris* tall sparse shrubland over *Comesperma spinosum* and *Melaleuca cordata* low open shrubland. - 32.243, 119.178. condition (Good).



Figure X: Middle crossing point: *Allocasuarina campestris*, *Acacia beauverdiana* and *Melaleuca hamata* tall open shrubland over **Vulpia bromoides* low sparse tussock grassland over *Waitzia acuminata* and *Ptilotus polystachyus* low sparse forbland. -32.242, 119.205. condition (Good).

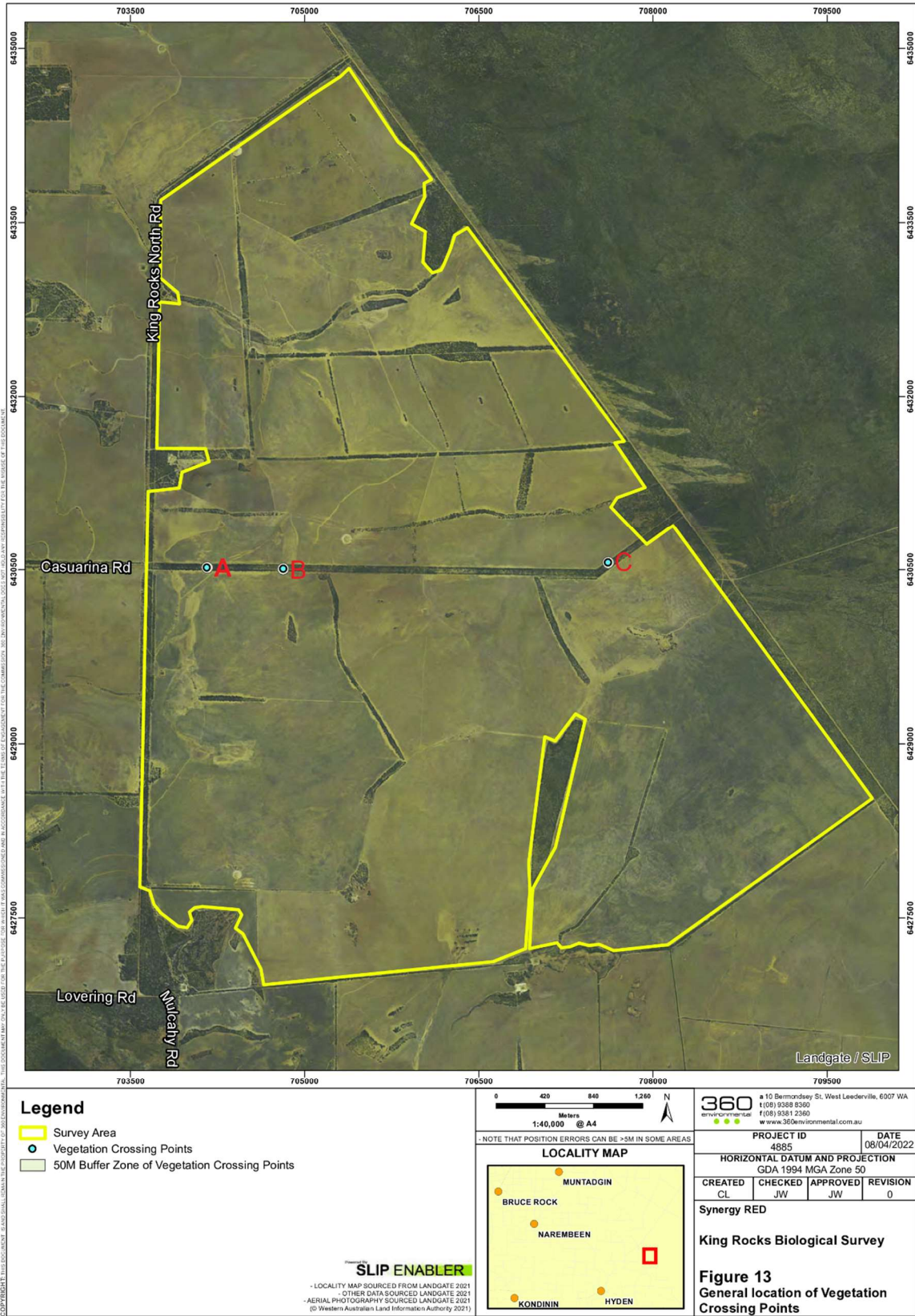


Figure Y: Proposed clearing areas of application area. Proposed vegetation crossing points with buffers around the proposed crossing points. A is PL6 vegetation mapped, B is PL7 vegetation mapped, and C is PL8 vegetation mapped.

Appendix F. Sources of information

F.1. GIS databases

Publicly available GIS Databases used (sourced from www.data.wa.gov.au):

- 10 Metre Contours (DPIRD-073)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Aboriginal Heritage Places (DPLH-001)
- Cadastre (LGATE-218)
- Cadastre Address (LGATE-002)
- Contours (DPIRD-073)
- DBCA – Lands of Interest (DBCA-012)
- DBCA Legislated Lands and Waters (DBCA-011)
- Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia – Western Australia (DBCA-045)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (DWER-046)
- Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Groundwater Salinity Statewide (DWER-026)
- Hydrography – Inland Waters – Waterlines
- Hydrological Zones of Western Australia (DPIRD-069)
- IBRA Vegetation Statistics
- Imagery
- Local Planning Scheme – Zones and Reserves (DPLH-071)
- Native Title (ILUA) (LGATE-067)
- Offsets Register – Offsets (DWER-078)
- Pre-European Vegetation Statistics
- Public Drinking Water Source Areas (DWER-033)
- Ramsar Sites (DBCA-010)
- Regional Parks (DBCA-026)
- Remnant Vegetation, All Areas
- RIWI Act, Groundwater Areas (DWER-034)
- RIWI Act, Surface Water Areas and Irrigation Districts (DWER-037)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Flood Risk (DPIRD-007)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Phosphorus Export Risk (DPIRD-010)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Subsurface Acidification Risk (DPIRD-011)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Erosion Risk (DPIRD-013)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Water Repellence Risk (DPIRD-014)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Waterlogging Risk (DPIRD-015)
- Soil Landscape Land Quality – Wind Erosion Risk (DPIRD-016)
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Best Available
- Soil Landscape Mapping – Systems
- Wheatbelt Wetlands Stage 1 (DBCA-021)

Restricted GIS Databases used:

- ICMS (Incident Complaints Management System) – Points and Polygons
- Threatened Flora (TPFL)
- Threatened Flora (WAHerb)
- Threatened Fauna
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities
- Threatened Ecological Communities and Priority Ecological Communities (Buffers)

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